

## **Become a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer!**

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer watercraft inspection program trains volunteers to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species. During a training workshop, volunteers receive instructions on how to set up a watercraft inspection program, approach boaters, perform boat/trailer checks and report suspect specimens. Many volunteers return to their community to form a watercraft inspection program, and develop an educational program that extends far beyond the boat landing.



2006 marks the fourth year of recruiting and training volunteers to educate boaters at the boat landings. With over 640 participants from 44 counties trained in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters protocol, it certainly reflects the tremendous effort volunteers are making to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Lake residents, county board members, tribal community members, representatives from county parks and forest programs, boat marina operators and realtors have all attended a workshop to learn how aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian water-milfoil and zebra mussels threaten Wisconsin waters.

To keep the momentum going, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, and Wisconsin Association of Lakes, is again offering another series of training workshops across the state. These workshops provide an opportunity to learn how and why educational awareness is so important in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. New this year, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is collaborating with the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network to offer training for watercraft inspections at the boat landing as well as whole lake monitoring for invasive species. In four designated workshops, volunteers will be able to attend both a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop and an advanced monitoring workshop to learn how to develop and monitor their total lake shoreline for aquatic invasive species. Participants may choose either or both workshops.

To register for a workshop or learn more about them, contact Laura Felda-Marquardt by e-mail, [Laura.Felda@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Laura.Felda@dnr.state.wi.us), or by telephone at DNR's Rhinelander office, (715) 365-2659, or visit the new website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW).

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